TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 14, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 9 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 7.2 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 320.7 billion ton-miles, up 0.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 9 totaled 395,459, up 4.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 1.7 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.4 percent in the East and 9.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 8,824 cars (56.9 percent), however, coal decreased by 2,961 cars (2.7 percent). Thirteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 2 totaled 97,670 trailers and/or containers, 2.1 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 1,719,892 trailers and/or containers, up 2.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/9/87:

	Loadings in Week ended May 9, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,340	I	8,824	56.9	I	211	0.9
Other farm products	3,785	I	288	8.2	D	45	1.2
Metallic ores	17,935	D	474	2.6	I	1,010	6.0
Coal	106,377	D	2,961	2.7	D	3,142	2.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,708	I	347	2.3	D	342	2.1
Nonmetallic minerals	10,664	I	330	3.2	I	576	5.7
Grain mill products	10,909	I	391	3.7	I	48	0.4
Food and kindred products	10,932	I	229	2.1	D	226	2.0
Primary forest products	11,147	I	800	7.7	I	165	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,239	I	268	3.4	D	667	7.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,478	D	105	0.8	D	299	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,103	I	375	1.5	D	1,938	6.9
Petroleum products	4,780	D	30	0.6	I	77	1.6
Stone, clay and glass products	11,073	I	620	5.9	D	201	1.8
Coke	5,083	D	142	2.7	D	111	2.1
Metals and products	8,980	I	327	3.8	D	1,058	10.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,718	D	647	3.2	D	286	1.4
Waste and scrap materials	8,165	D	26	0.3	D	467	5.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,793	I	6	0.2	I	61	2.2
All other carloads	75,136	I	7,929	11.8	D	367	0.5
LCL traffic	114	I	12	11.8	I	17	17.5
Total Cars Loaded	395,459	I	16,361	4.3	D	6,984	1.7
Corresponding week of 1986	379,098						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	7,198,136	7,131,101	I 0.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
18 Weeks ended May 2	303.2	301.7	I 0.5
Week ended May 9	17.5	16.3	I 7.2
19 Weeks cumulative	320.7	318.0	I 0.8

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